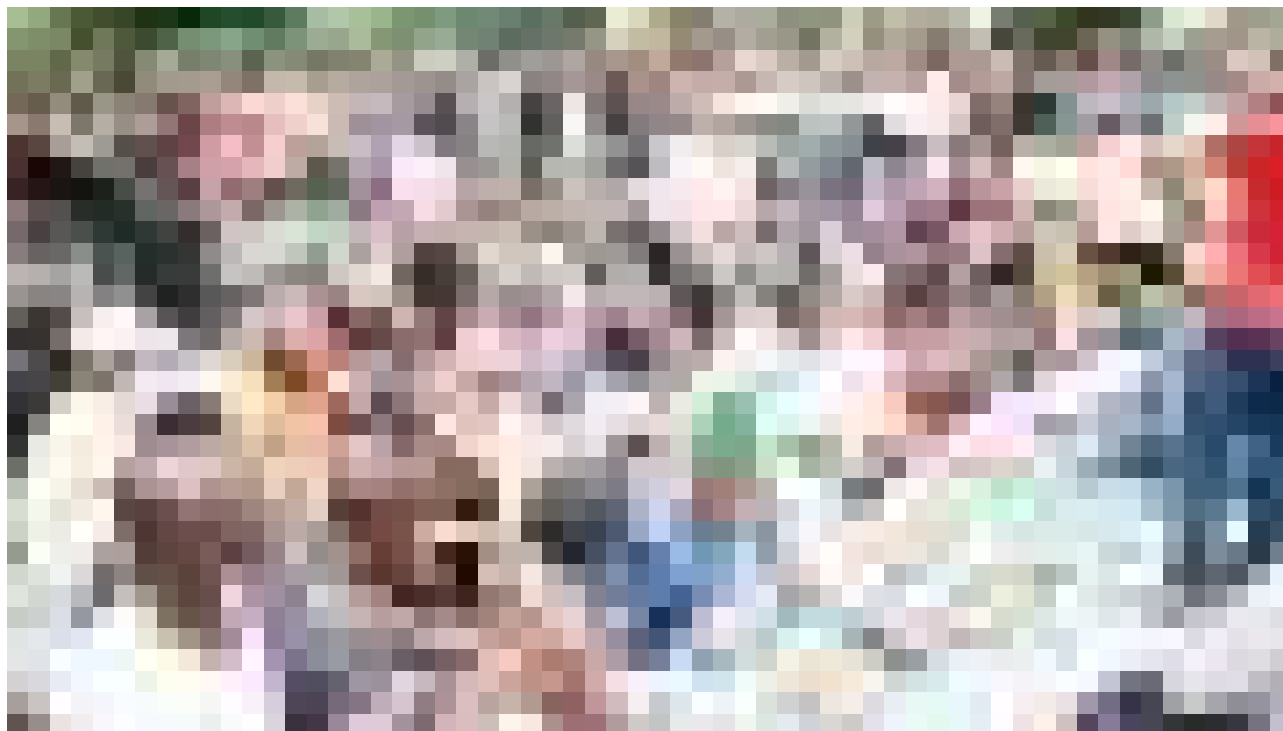


In Abuja, the demonstration claimed a victim, who was shot dead along the Kubwa expressway.

An eyewitness, who identified herself as Ekaete, said the man, whose identity could not be immediately confirmed, was gunned down after the protesters became violent and blocked the highway.

“I was waiting for a bus on the expressway when the protesters in their numbers blocked the highway and harassed motorists. But as they became violent, the police fired live shots, killing the young man. Everybody took off on seeing the man fall,” she narrated.



*#EndBadGovernance protesters in Ojota, Lagos... on Thursday. Photo: Elliot Ovadje*

The police also had another encounter with protesters at the Eagles Square, Three Arms Zone, located a few metres from the Presidential Villa.

A group of protesters converged on the Eagles Square, chanting the old “Arise, O Compatriots” national anthem and demanding an end to bad governance in the country.

In response, the security operatives fired a couple of teargas canisters to discourage the protesters, who only shouted back in defiance.



*#EndBadGovernanceInNigeria protesters in Abuja on Thursday, August 1, 2024. Photo: Olukayode Jaiyeola*

Shortly after, the Minister of State for Youth Development, Ayodele Olawande, arrived at the scene and attempted to address the protesters, who shouted him down with chants of “hunger dey.”

However, he called for calm, stating that he wasn’t attempting to shut down the protest but to encourage them to be civil.

“I’m not here to fight you, I’m not here to ask you not to protest, it is your right. Like I said, I’ve been to over 100-500 protests,” Olawande stated.

But things quickly escalated upon the minister’s exit as the operatives fired more toxic gas and pepper spray, dislodging the protesters at about 10:30am after first firing warning non-lethal shots at the ground.



#### *#EndBadGovernanceInNigeria Protest*

Courageously, a female protester confronted the police officers, holding up her baby and daring them to shoot.

She told journalists that she showed up at the protest with her baby after bandits killed her husband in Katsina.

“I came to protest the hardship in Nigeria and the police are shooting teargas at us. Do they also want to kill my baby? People cannot eat. Things are hard,” the protester, who did not disclose her name, said.

The policemen in a helicopter also fired teargas at a group of protesters occupying the city gate.

Some protesters had earlier gathered at the Moshood Abiola National Stadium as early as 6am, in compliance with a court order earlier obtained by the FCT administration on Wednesday, restricting them to the stadium.



*Hoodlums loot the NCC Industrial Park in Kano State on Thursday.*

They, however, resisted the police directive to hold their rally inside the stadium.

They later moved to the Eagle Square, when they learnt some protesters were being harassed by security forces.

Before then, five bus-loads of pro-government protesters were brought to the stadium.

The placard-carrying youths said they were opposed to the hunger protest.

One of them admitted that they were promised N5,000 each to stage a counter-protest.



*Hoodlums loot the NCC Industrial Park in Kano State on Thursday.*

“They (organisers) picked us up and said they would give us N5,000 to protest against these people. I have collected N2,000 and I am waiting for my balance. I am hungry but the money given to him would not solve my problem,” he

said.

The Director of Mobilisation, Take It Back Movement, Damilare Adenola, said the protest would continue until President Bola Tinubu acceded to their demands.

The protesters are demanding the reversal of petrol pump price to N100/litre, an end to insecurity, the closing of IDP camps and electoral reform, among other things.

Adenola said, “The various orders of court restricting protesters to particular locations are an aberration. Our presence here today is an announcement that we have been oppressed for too long. Today, we have risen.

“We are saying that unless President Bola Tinubu acceded to our demands, we will remain on the streets. We want to see the President on the streets. During the protest, he was on the streets.”